

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests further examination and reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the arguments set forth below. Claims 1-48 were previously pending in this application. Within the Office Action, Claims 1, 2, 7, 13, 14, 28-30, 35, 36, 40-42, 47 and 48 have been rejected, Claims 3-6, 8-12, 26, 27, 31-34, 38, 39 and 43-46 have been objected to and Claims 15-24 have been allowed. By the above amendment, Claims 1, 4, 8-11, 15, 19-21, 25, 31-33, 37 and 43-45 have been amended and Claims 3, 26 and 38 have been canceled. Accordingly, Claims 1, 2, 4-25, 27-37 and 39-48 are currently pending.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Within the Office Action, Claims 1, 2, 7, 13, 14, 25, 28-30, 35-37, 40-42, 47 and 48 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,990,741 to Yamamoto et al. (“Yamamoto”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,598,129 to Chambers (“Chambers”). Within the Office Action, Claims 3-6, 8-12, 26, 27, 31-34, 38, 39 and 43-46 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. It is further stated within the Office Action that Claims 3-6, 8-12, 26, 27, 31-34, 38, 39 and 43-46 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. By the above amendment, the independent Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations from the objected to Claim 3. Accordingly, as indicated within the Office Action, the independent Claim 1 is allowable.

Claims 2, 4-7, 13 and 14 are all dependent on the independent Claim 1. Since independent Claim 1 is allowable, Claims 2, 4-7, 13 and 14 are all also allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

By the above amendment, Claim 8 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, as indicated within the Office Action, the independent Claim 8 is allowable.

Claims 9-12 are all dependent on the independent Claim 8. Since independent Claim 8 is allowable, Claims 9-12 are all also allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

By the above amendment, the independent Claim 25 has been amended to include the limitations from the objected to Claim 26. Accordingly, as indicated within the Office Action, the independent Claim 25 is allowable.

Claims 27-36 are all dependent on the independent Claim 25. Since independent Claim 25 is allowable, Claims 27-36 are all also allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

By the above amendment, the independent Claim 37 has been amended to include the limitations from the objected to Claim 38. Accordingly, as indicated within the Office Action, the independent Claim 37 is allowable.

Claims 39-48 are all dependent on the independent Claim 37. Since independent Claim 37 is allowable, Claims 39-48 are all also allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

Allowable Subject Matter

Within the Office Action, it is indicated that Claims 15-24 are allowed.

For the reasons given above, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance, and allowance at an early date would be greatly appreciated. If the Examiner should have any questions or comments, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (408) 530-9700 to discuss the same so that any outstanding issues can be expeditiously resolved.

Respectfully submitted,
HAVERSTOCK & OWENS LLP

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By: Jonathan O. Owens
Jonathan O. Owens
Reg. No. 37,902
Attorneys for Applicants